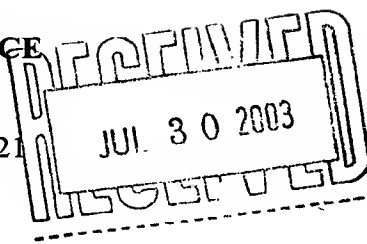


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re the application of: )  
Kozo Akiyoshi et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/994,850 )  
Filed: November 28, 2001 )  
For: IMAGE-EFFECT METHOD )  
AND APPARATUS USING )  
CRITICAL POINTS )

Group Art Unit: 2621  
Examiner:  
Attorney Docket: 13831

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JUL 28 2003

Technology Center 2000

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
USA

Dear Sir/Madam:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in the manner prescribed by 37 CFR 1.97(b) - (d) to satisfy the duty under 37 CFR 1.56 to disclose to the Office information, known to individuals associated with the filing and prosecution of the subject application, which is material to the examination of the application.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), this statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(b).

This information disclosure statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application; within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; or before the mailing date of a first official action on the merits and therefore applicant respectfully requests consideration under 37 CFR 1.97(b).

In compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), a list of all patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office is hereby provided by way of the attached Form PTO-1449.

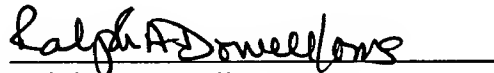
In compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), also enclosed, where applicable, is a legible copy of:

- i) each United States and foreign patent.
- ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed.

Under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) enclosed is a copy of a translation of a search report indicating the relevance of the foreign language references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Please note that a corresponding US Patent for a second reference noted in the search report has already been submitted in the present application.

It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered by the Examiner and that the references be made of record and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Registration No. 26, 868

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Date: 7/25/03  
Encls. \_\_\_\_\_



<b>FORM PTO-1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	<b>Docket Number (Optional)</b> 13831	<b>Application Number</b> 09/994,850
	<b>Applicant</b> Kozo AKIYOSHI et al	
	<b>Filing Date</b> November 28, 2001	<b>Group Art Unit</b> 2621

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIALS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
						<b>RECEIVED</b>  JUL 28 2003  Technology Center 2600

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	9-81746	3/28/1997	JP				X

OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>		
		Patent Abstracts of Japan for Japanese Patent Publication No. 09-081746, dated March 28, 1997 (listed above).
		English Translation of "Notification of Reasons for Refusal – Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-128384", issued April 8, 2003, 4 pages.
<b>EXAMINER:</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED:</b>	
<b>EXAMINER:</b> Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance <u>and</u> not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.		